

56. A process as claimed in claim 38 or claim 46, wherein the extraction solvent is in liquid form.--

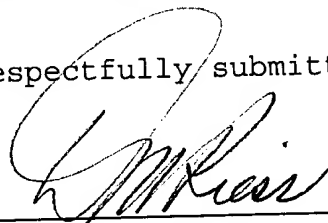
REMARKS

Applicants continue to claim priority, as they did in the parent application Serial No. 08/716,269, on application No. PCT/GB95/00554, filed March 15, 1995, which application claimed priority on United Kingdom application No. 9406423.5, filed March 31, 1994.

This application's immediate parent application, Serial No. 08/716,269, has now been allowed and is scheduled to issue on May 1, 2001 as Patent No. 6,224,847.

Early examination and allowance are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked-Up Amendment

Although extraction solvents comprising a perfluorocarbon such as perfluoropropane may be usefully employed in the process of the present invention, the preferred extraction solvents will comprise one or more hydrofluorocarbons. Hydrofluorocarbons having from 1 to 3 carbon atoms, especially the hydrofluoromethanes, hydrofluoroethanes and hydrofluoropropanes, are more preferred, and of these the hydrofluorocarbons having 2 carbon atoms, especially the hydrofluoroethanes, are particularly preferred. Examples of hydrofluoromethanes[,] and hydrofluoroethanes [and hydrofluoropropanes] which may be useful in the extraction process of the present invention include, inter alia, trifluoromethane, fluoromethane, difluoromethane, pentafluoroethane, 1,1,1-trifluoroethane, 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethane[,] and 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane[, 1,1,1,2,3,3-hexafluoropropane, 1,1,1,2,2,3-hexafluoropropane and 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropane].

Suitable hydrofluoropropanes for use in the present process may be selected from the pentafluoropropanes, the hexafluoropropanes and the heptafluoropropanes.

Suitable pentafluoropropanes and hexafluoropropanes include 1,1,1,3,3-pentafluoropropane (R-245fa), 1,1,2,2,3-pentafluoropropane (R-245ca), 1,1,1,2,3-pentafluoropropane (R-245eb), 1,1,2,3,3-pentafluoropropane (R-245ea), 1,1,1,2,3,3-hexafluoropropane (R-236ea), 1,1,1,2,2,3-hexafluoropropane (R-236cb) and 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropane (R-236fa). A particularly preferred pentafluoropropane is R-245fa. A particularly preferred hexafluoropropane is R-236ea.

In a preferred embodiment, the hydrofluoropropane that is used in the process of the invention is a heptafluoropropane.

The heptafluoropropane which is employed in this preferred embodiment may be 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane (R-227ea) or 1,1,1,2,2,3,3-heptafluoropropane (R-227ca). Mixtures of the two heptafluoropropanes may also be employed. The preferred heptafluoropropane is 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane (R-227ea).